Pension to employees absorbed in MTNL

2488. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed in principle, to pay the pension to Government employees absorbed in MTNL and opted for Government pension;

(b) if so, whether the necessary notification has been issued to that effect; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The pension to the Government employees absorbed in MTNL prior to 30.9.2000 shall be determined by OM NO. 4/18/87-P & PW (D) dated 5th July 1989 and the pension of the Government employees absorbed after 30.9.2000 shall be determined by Notification No. 4/61/99-P & PW (D) dated 30th September, 2000 issued by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension as per effective date of absorption.

Electronic and hardware policy

2489. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated electronic and hardware policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy; and

(c) in what manner the policy ensures strong linkage between industry and universities to boost R&D?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Draft Paper on "National Electronics/IT Hardware Manufacturing Policy" was formulated by the Department of Information Technology. The salient features as proposed in the Draft Paper are given in the enclosed Statement-I *(See* below). The measures proposed in the Draft Paper for supporting R&D are given in the enclosed Statement-ll.

Statement-I

Salient Features of the Draft Paper on "National Electronics/IT Hardware Manufacturing Policy"

Vision

To make India one of the key players in the global electronics/IT hardware manufacturing sector and integrate with the global value-added-chain.

Objectives

a) Spurring the Domestic demand

b) Making Indian Electronics/IT Hardware Sector globally competitive

c) Facilitating the industry for addressing global markets

d) Facilitate formation of catalysts for growth of the industry

e) Positioning India in the global value-added-chain

f) Focus on value-added products

g) Reducing dependence on imports

h) Help businesses realise full potential in creating wealth.

The proposed strategy for supporting/encouraging Electronics/IT hardware manufacturing in the country pertains to the following:

1. Tariff Policy
2. Issues related to EXIM Policy
3. Setting up of Hardware Manufacturing Cluster Parks (HMCP)
4. Encouragement to sourcing of locally manufactured products
5. Upgradation of general infrastructure
6. Reduction in transaction time
7. Supporting R&D
8. Marketing 'Made In India'
9. Encouraging relocation of manufacturing plants to India
10. Inviting large EMS (Electronics Manufacturing Service) companies to set up/augment Indian operations
11. Development of Semiconductor Industry

12. Looking Beyond The Domestic Market
13. HRD in VLSI Design and Embedded Software
14. Amending Labour Laws
15. Patenting
16. Quality Certification
17. Removal of mandatory Customs Bonding for Electronics and IT units
18. Enhancing rate of depreciation on computers
19. Dispensing with Procurement/Rewarehousing Certificates

Statement-ll

Supporting R&D

Song Industry-University/Research Institute linkages not only help in training for the state-of-the art technologies, but also serve as incubation ground for entrepreneurs. Establishment of such linkages would be encouraged through liberal funding.

The measures need to be taken are:

- To promote strategically relevent R&D for developing high value added products and services through both sponsored programs and also by setting up world class R&D centres. Government has to take a lead role through long term investments as well as to encourage leading companies world over to set up their R&D centres in India.
- To take initiatives for developing products and services for handicapped.
- To promote knowledge-based industries and also develop efficient production technologies for cost reduction.
- Continuous up-gradation of technologies and manufacturing process which is essential for industry's survival in the global manfucturing environment.
- Revenue/royalty from technology export would be exempted from corporate tax as in software.
- Abolish withholding tax on export of Electronics/IT Technology.

Considering the global shifts from resources-based to knowledge-based digital economy, there is a need to have a separate National Digital

Technology Plan identifying thrust areas on medium and long term basis to steer Indian industry to pre-eminent position in the world.

Modernisation of postal services in Chhattisgarh

t2490. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action-plan for the development and modernisation of the postal services in the urban and rural areas of Chhattisgarh:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for the expansion programmes of the postal services in the urban and rural areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Under the 10th Five Year Plan, the focus is on upgrading the physical network through computerization, induction of technology and modernization of post offices and postal operations throughout the country, including Chhattisgarh. Expansion of the postal network, training of employees, modernization of operative offices and Speed Post Centres etc. are also being taken up in a phased manner to improve access to postal facilities and provide more efficient service. By the end of the 10th plan, all Head Post Offices and almost all Departmental post offices in the country having more than 2 hands are targeted to be computerized and value added services like e-post provided through them. Computerization of Registration Centres of mail offices, booking and delivery of Speed Post, Circle Stamp Depots, Foreign Post Offices etc. is also targeted for the same period. Computerised Customer Care Centres and Workplace Training Centres have already been set up in different circles, including Chhattisgarh.

Circle-wise targets for each plan activity are decided annually, based on plan resources allocated to the Department and parameters/criteria approved for each scheme. Details of achievements under some important plan schemes till date in Chhattisgarh Circle along with details of funds allocated in the current year, are given in the enclosed Statement I and II -fOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.